



Common Scents

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey
July / August 2005 Volume 30 Issue 4

President's Message

Well, we've gone from "*Knee Deep in June*" (one of James Whitcomb Riley's lines) to Agony in August! Don't know about you all – but it's been a tad hard to breathe in the thick soup outdoors for me. Hope you are all carrying lots of water, not working *anybody* in the heat of the noon day sun (your dogs will work, regardless, if you ask them to - remember the line about "*mad dogs and Englishmen*"?), but tracking nonetheless. I am. And not with the cat, either!

We have a new (really new – 8 weeks as of this note) puppy, who does not care what goes into her mouth. A glove, metal, my arm....she respects it all equally. Not. Thus, we're taking advantage of it. Early, *really* early in the AM (before the bat comes back to hang in my guest bedroom window, while the deer are still munching downed pears), we go out and deposit the glove. Of course, she is hardly lead trained yet – and I've no fitting harness – but she's pulling me along to the glove (which, at this point, she sees). Actually, one track and she already locked in on the flag. So I guess I have to be a little more creative.

Don't really think we'll be ready to certify on September 25 - but a few of you may well be. Remember, you can actually track at night as long as you are sure of the track – the moon and the orange flags should be enough. Good luck, happy tracking, and we'll see you at certification – if not to certify, then to observe and /or help lay track if you are a certified track layer.

Meanwhile, play it safe in the heat. And put in an order for a cool day for us in September.

Alice Crans



Beginning Tracking Classes
September 10, 2005

Tracking Dog Test
November 6, 2005

Certification Workshop
September 25, 2005

Tracking Dog Excellent Test
November 13, 2005

Brags and Tidbits

Marilyn Taurig...Kysteel Sunstone Star CGC TDI recently took two Best of Breed wins making it a first for LandaraCurl Curly Coated Retriever kennel and Springcurl Royal Doulton at LandaraCurl was OS



Kathy Gaynor...on June 26 in Augusta, Maine, Blue the Keeshond, became the first dog of his breed to earn a Rally Advanced/Excellent title changing his name to Vandy's K Out of the Blue CDX RAE CGC TDI

Teryl Lebkuecher...on August 6 & 7, Mace the Cardigan qualified in Herding Started class earning two legs and achieving his AKC Herding Started title

Bev Olsen...has added an other member to her family...Breeze, a 3 year old rescued Greyhound, who is learning to put her nose to the ground and find the glove

Certification Workshop

September 25, 2005

Lenape will be holding its annual Tracking Certification Workshop for its members on September 25. An AKC judge will judge the dogs and handlers following the same requirements as if participating in a Tracking Dog trial.

If your dog can complete a blind track of 440 to 500 yards in length, 30 minutes to 2 hours old with 3 to 5 turns and you have read the AKC tracking regulations, then you may be ready for certification. If you are not sure, please contact a Board member or info@lenapetrackingclub.org for guidance. Entry forms and specific details can be obtained through Carol Shields at woof4@verizon.net or 732-264-9933.



Proposed New Members

The following person(s) have applied for membership in the Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey. They have fulfilled all of the requirements of new members and will become members in 30 days from the mailing of this newsletter unless we receive written comments as to why they should not become a member.

Kathleen Edwards

610-278-9373

Madkapdox@comcast.net

Penny Giovinco

610-275-0823

Pgiovinco@comcast.net

Recommended by:

John Etchells and Alice Crans

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Welcome

New Lenape Members

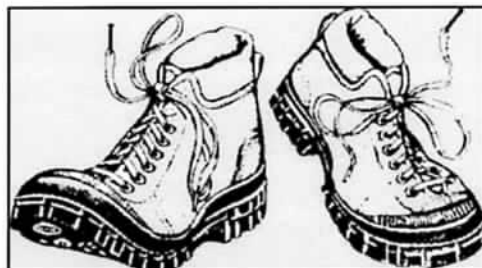
Donna Hess

Amy Rocco

Eddie Hicks

Interested in Laying Track ?

Lenape is always looking for folks who would like to support the club by laying track at the upcoming events. If you are interested, please contact John Etchells at 908-236-2423.



Lenape is Offering Beginning Tracking Classes

Beginning September 10, the club is offering tracking classes for beginners. No experience is necessary for either dog or handler and the class is open to members and non-members. Please contact info@lenapetrackingclub or 732-493-4919 for more information.

Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

Officers:

President: Alice Crans 908-537-2574

Vice President: Carol Shields 732-264-9933

Secretary: Mimi Ruch 908-722-9723

Treasurer: John Etchells: 908-236-2423

Past President: Bev Olsen 732-772-0886

Board:

Peg Forte 908-8327231

Peter Heide 609-466-4160

Teryl Lebkuecher 732-493-4919

Lisa Pattison 908-850-8879

Learning to Read Your Dog . . .

Copied from the Moraine Tracking Club web site
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/4425>

Remember that only your dog knows where the track goes. your nose probably won't get you too far. However, our dogs are always learning, so they will make mistakes. Hopefully, your tracklayer also knows where the track goes, and will clue you in if your dog makes a mistake. But you still must follow your dog!

The most frequent tracklayer error in tracking is trying to second guess the tracklayer. Most times you are much better off letting your dog take you for a walk. Your tracklayer will tell you if the dog has made a mistake, at which point you bring the dog back to where he is on the track and go from there, again, following your dog.

The most frequent tracklayer error is correcting the handler too soon. If you are going to tell them which way the track goes constantly, you might as well draw a line on the ground and tell the handler to follow.

Learning to read your dog is a combination of watching the dog make mistakes to find out what he does to indicate he is lost, and watching the dog when he is correct to see his behavior when he is on the track. tracklayers may help best by gently clueing the handler without giving away the track. For instance, say "you're coming up to a turn" instead of "there's a left turn at the tree". Telling the handler the location and direction of turns does nothing to build a handler's confidence in his dog. Some handlers have a hard time seeing a dog's clues, yet they are obvious to the tracklayer following. Discuss with the handler what you have observed so the handler can look for it. For example you might advise the handler that the dog's tail always wags in a circle when he is working a turn.

Watch other dogs run their tracks. Many times it is far easier to see track indications in a dog when you are not following with lead in hand. For some reason handlers tend to worry so much about whether their dog is doing OK, they forget to watch for indications. You can even try having someone else run your dog so you can watch.

Tracklayers need to give clear directions when they need to help a handler. When you are standing behind the dog, calling out that the track goes "that way", the handler has no idea where "that way" is. Stating that the dog is about twenty paces past a turn is much more clear, and enables a handler to judge the mistake in relation to his current position.

Avoid correcting the dog/handler too soon. Let the dog be clearly off tracking before jumping in with directions. Wind, terrain, buildings, etc. all have varying effects on the scent. It's quite possible that a dog who is not exactly on track, or who passes up a turn, may be able to correct himself and get back on the track. It is important that the handler learns to read the dog in these various situations. Only correct the dog when he has clearly taken a wrong turn, missed an article, or is so far past the turn that he is unlikely to get back. This doesn't mean that you let the dog get 100 yards away, but 30 yards is an acceptable margin for error, especially in wind.

Try to consider all aspects of the track you've laid when making corrections. Are two legs really close together and the wind strong enough that the dog is trying to cut off part of the track? If the dog's body language indicates that he is really tracking, this may be the case.

How old is the track? More recently laid tracks will have more blown off scent around the track than an older track on which the air scent has had time to dissipate. Dogs may use different signals on different age tracks. Help the handler watch for this.

Tracks around buildings can suck up scent next to them or cast it farther away. Just because you put the track exactly ten feet from the building is no reason for the dog to be in your footsteps. As you and the handler learn to read the dog, you will be able to tell if the dog is on a scent or has lost it. Let the dog work out the problems, give it the freedom to make mistakes and you will learn much more about what your dog is saying about the scent that it is following.

New Member Profile...

Amy Rocco

As a new member to Lenape Tracking Club, I would like to take the time to thank all of you for considering me for membership. I would also like to take the time to thank Teryl and Bev for all of their time on early Saturday mornings to coach me through and lay tracks for me and my dog.

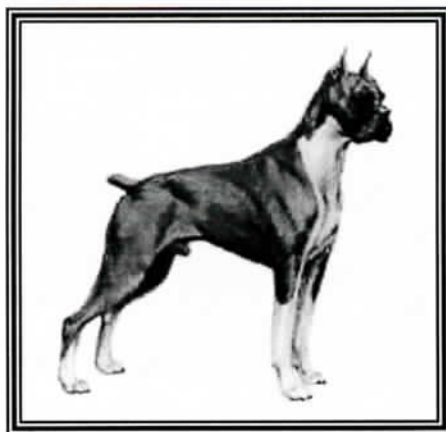
Deja is my first Boxer. She is 2 and 1/2 years old and has no titles of any kind "yet." I had wanted a Boxer for 12 years and boy did I get one. She is quite a handful I might add but it is to be expected. I couldn't imagine my life without her.

I started tracking Deja at three months of age with nothing but a bunch of books to go by, a lot of food and only seeing tracking done the Schutzhund way. So I taught all of her commands in German then in English. She seemed to enjoy tracking from the beginning.

As time went on I started working at Petsmart as a full time trainer and assisting at St. Hubert's Dog Training School. With the guidance of many good trainers, I soon had my aversive ways of Schutzhund behind me. No more chokes for me!

When Deja turned about 1 and 1/2 years old, she started to really show an understanding for what "find it" meant. And as a Boxer owner, she is quite the distracted girl with the disadvantage of a short nose, grass allergies and only me behind the lead. I figured it was time to get serious, I picked up more books, started going to different seminars with a different method of training. Time still went by, and training on my own came to a stand still, never working from maps or counting distance. Just tracking through all kinds of weather and terrain.

So, I found Lenape Tracking Club through St. Hubert's and after many emails with Teryl, we finally got to meet at a Lenape meeting in March 2005. I met some really lovely who all have the same interest and believe it or not, the way Bev put it at the TED, tracking people are so nice. The one main thing I realized, was that I was the youngest of the group. This just goes to show that I have a lot to learn any many experienced people to learn from. I look forward to my Saturdays with Teryl and looking forward to meet many more Lenape members.



Lenape would like to thank Amy for taking the time to write her introduction. We would like to hear from all our new members.



**Please make sure that the club has your
correct contact information.
Notify Alice Crans at crans@earthlink.net
or 908-537-2574 with any changes.**

